

Minutes of the EBF Congress, Berlin, 22.10.2023

Agenda

1. Opening of the Congress
2. Roll call, validation of proxies and determination of voting rights
3. Appointment of chairman and secretary of the Congress
4. Adoption of minutes of the previous Congress and matters arising there from
5. Annual Report of the Presidium over the years 2021 and 2022
6. Financial report of EBF over the years 2021 and 2022
7. Financial report of EBT over the years 2020 and 2021
8. Auditors' report
9. Dealing with matters arising from the above reports
10. Release of the Presidium
11. Legislative session
12. Budget revised for 2023 and Budgets for 2024 and 2025
13. Elections
14. Questions/Remarks from the floor
15. Closing the meeting

Ad 1 - Opening of the Congress

The resigned EBF President, Addie Ophelders, opens the Congress on 22 October 2023 at 10:00 wishing everybody a warm welcome. He introduces the presidium members and all attendees (Appendix I - attendee list).

The participants are then also welcomed by the president of the German Bowling Union, Dieter Rechenberg, host federation of the congress.

Ad 2 - Roll call, validation of proxies and determination of voting rights

Addie O. appoints Martina Jakobi to do the roll call.

The roll call counts 23 delegates with votes and two proxies had been received in advance: Bulgaria to Iceland, Ukraine to France.

Marios Nicolaides signals, that he has three more proxies:

Latvia to Cyprus, Slovakia to Turkey, Portugal to Kosovo,

In total 28 votes.

23 represented countries + 5 proxies

The Auditors are called to verify the proxies. Florian Fister confirms that they are valid and found satisfactory.

Ad 3 - Appointment of chairman and secretary of the Congress

In accordance with the Statutes Addie Ophelders is accepted as chairman of the Congress, assisted by Secretary General, Martina Jakobi.

Ad 4 - Adoption of minutes of the previous Congress and matters arising there from

The minutes of the ETBF Congress on 24 October 2022 in Chania, Greece, had been circulated to all member federations in due time prior to the Congress.

There is no request to the president to read them out loud.
The minutes are unanimously adopted as presented.

Ad 5 - Annual Report of the Presidium over the years 2021 and 2022

The Presidium's report for the financial years 2021 and 2022 have been circulated to all member federations in due time prior to the Congress. All have received it.

Onder Gurcan is presenting additional report via a Power Point presentation.

Starting to introduce the updated Academy including the educational committee and EBF instructors. <https://ebfacademy.eu/>

He thanks all federations to let their coaches attend the trainings.

The system works through regional instructors.

Level III instructors are newly structured. The ICoach-website is updated accordingly, and it's set up by new categories like the new instructor's zone.

41 out of 46 member federations are educated by EBF with the number of 1698 instructors. Next EBF iCoach-Conference will be held on 2-4 February 2024.

Registration through: www.bowlingconference.com

Topics will be Urethane Balls, String Machines and Two-Handed-Bowling. During the days there will be different workshops on various themes.

Other new projects:

1. New updates for L1 & L2 will be ready for 2024
2. Online training pilot project – referee program
3. Next steps: L3 updates & more online programs

Update on Marketing committee which is working with a professional company named Formitas:

- Creating a concept for Bowling in Europe for social media and to attract sponsors
- This included name and logo changes within EBF
- Homepages are extended and updated
- Medals look different
- Re-designed EBF distribution materials
- New project started through EBF, which is the European Bowling Tour Youth, formerly known as the Youth European Trophy.
For this was also a logo and design for a shirt created. For the first season from August 2024 to May 2025 it will already contain 11 tournaments.
- Gender Equality Committee established. Alison Moore is giving some ideas what the committee is about. For more information, please contact through gec@europeanbowling.sport
- A survey on the topics had been distributed in late 2022. Anybody who is interested and who completed the survey will soon receive a copy of the outcome.
- Next committees to be created: Athlete's Committee and a Hall of Fame Committee

There are no questions. The delegates unanimously adopt the report as presented.

Ad 6 - Financial report of EBF over the years 2021 and 2022

The financial report for the years 2021 and 2022 was included in the Presidium's report for these two years.

There are no questions or comments to the financial report. The delegates agree with the report.

Ad 7 - Financial report of EBT over the years 2020 and 2021

The financial report for the years 2020 and 2021 was included in the Presidium's report. There are no questions or comments to the financial report for the EBT. The delegates agreed with the report.

Ad 8 - Auditors' report

The Auditors' report for the years 2021 and 2022 of EBF and EBT for the years 2020 and 2021 was presented together with the financial reports.

Ad 9 - Dealing with matters arising from the above reports

There are no comments or questions to above reports.

The Presidium's report for the years 2021 and 2022 is unanimously accepted as presented.

The Financial reports for the years 2021 and 2022 of EBF and for the years 2020 and 2021 for EBT are unanimously accepted as presented.

The Auditors' report for the years 2021 and 2022 of EBF including the EBT report over the years 2020 and 2021 are unanimously accepted as presented.

Ad 10 - Release of the Presidium

Addie Ophelders asks the delegates to release the presidium for the above presented items. In accordance with the recommendation from the auditors the Congress unanimously decided to discharge the Presidium from liabilities for the years 2021 and 2022.

The delegates agreed with the reports Ad 4-10 by acclamation.

Ad 11 - Legislative session

The EBF Vice-President, Valgeir Gudbjartsson chairs the legislative session.

All Proposal have been sent in advance of the congress with the congress documents.

Proposal 1, by the EBF Presidium

Change article 1.7.1 composition of the Presidium.

A comment by Florian F. The wording must be amended.

In case there are two female candidates, and none will be directly elected, the one will be nominated, which has the most votes.

With above correction approved with 28 votes. None against it.

Proposal 2, by the EBF Presidium

Article 2.3 Awards taken from chapter 2 and moved into (new) chapter 9 of the EBF rules.

Approved with 28 votes. None against it.

Proposal 3, by the EBF Presidium

Change article 2.1.2 Tournament approval fees.

Approved with 28 votes. None against it.

Proposal 4, by the Irish Tenpin Bowling Association

Definition of cost for education clinics and cost involved, as well as lodging of coaching hours and inclusion of the Education program fees in the constitution.

It was discussed offline with the presidium members and the miscommunication clarified by them. Ireland, represented by Christopher Sloan removes the proposal.

Proposal 5, by the Irish Tenpin Bowling Association

Define and set limit for serving time as President, Vice President, and Presidium members.

A discussion starts to clarify standpoints of different federations.

After that, the proposal is changed on all 3 items to following terms:

- four years terms with a maximum of two terms, effective immediately, with a maximum of eight years on the board (no rotation in positions possible)

Vote: the proposal is declined

For it: 10

Against it: 16

Proposal 6, by the Netherlands Bowling Federation

Add the Grand Senior (+65) category to the EBF Championships

Within the next three to five months, it will be announced on the website and by EBF how this will be implemented.

Approved with 28 votes. None against it.

Proposal 7, by the Netherlands Bowling Federation

Create a working Group to look into the current EBF articles and update as necessary.

A working group should be formed by the EBF Presidium to review the rules. It will be voted on at the next meeting in two years' time.

Approved with 28 votes. None against it.

Proposal 8, by the Netherlands Bowling Federation

3 proposals for changes in the championship rules

Valgeir Gudbjartsson recommends handing this over to the championships committee for handling.

Approved with 28 votes. None against it.

Ad 12 - Budget revised for 2023 and Budgets for 2024 and 2025

The revised budget for 2023 and proposed budget for the years 2024 and 2025 had been circulated to all member federations in due time prior to the Congress.

Valgeir Gudbjartsson explains that the 2023 budget shows some big changes due to the move of the EBT finances into the EBF accounts.

Marios Nicolaides explains, that if the category +65 will be added to the ESC, this budget will be revised as well.

Christopher Sloan (IRE) asks why the GEC has no budget in 2024. VG explains that they only meet in presence every other year, so again in 2025. All other meetings will be held online.

Jan Jaap van der Sar (NED) asks about the differences in the budget of the marketing between 2024 and 2025 and if Onder Gurkan has approved it.

VG explains that it has mainly to do with the billing of the Marketing Company Formitas. There is a higher claim in 2024 vs. 2025.

Ch. Sloan asks about the spendings for the EBF representatives to IBF meetings. VG explains that EBF is paying for the 2 delegates from EBF. Lisa John (ENG) is asking, why it's not paid by IBF. VG answers, that one reason is, that IBF has currently no money, but also it has been the custom that the zones pay travelling and accommodation for their delegates.

Ch. Sloan asks about the status of the paid fees of EBF members for IBF membership fees.

Addie Ophelders explains the hold back of the IBF fees. There is no account of IBF where the money could be transferred to. Addie O. in addition states that IBF is informed and in agreement of the hold back.

Ch. Sloan is asking, why it is not paid back to the federations. Valgeir G. answers, that only if the fee is paid, they are legally members of IBF.

All zone federations are holding back the collected membership fees from their members for IBF, as there is no bank account of IBF to transfer it to.

Patrick Hunter (FRA) mentions that they still expect some refunds from IBF, but do not get any answer from IBF. Marios N. recommends having him be added to all correspondence with IBF on this matter to allow him additional follow-up as Vice President of IBF.

The revised budget of 2023 and for the budgets of 2024 and 2025 are confirmed by the delegates by acclamation.

Lunch break from 12:15 to 13:30

Ad 13 - Elections

After the lunch break, Addie O. family joins the meeting as guests. Addie O. says with a twinkle, they just want to ensure that he will not be re-elected.

Addie O. leads the election of his successor.

13.1 President

Election of President for the term until the Congress in 2025

Candidates:

Name: Valgeir Gudbjartsson, Iceland

Present position: Vice-President of EBF

Member of the Icelandic Bowling Association

Nominated by: Icelandic Bowling Association

Addie O. is asking the delegates, if they will vote for the candidate, Valgeir Gudbjartsson to become the EBF president.

Valgeir Gudbjartsson is elected as President until the Congress 2025 by acclamation.

13.2 Vice-President

Election of Vice President for a term until the Congress 2027.

Candidate is:

Name: Mr. Marios Nicolaides, Cyprus

Present position: EBF Presidium Member

Member of the Cyprus Bowling Federation

Nominated by: Cyprus Bowling Federation

Addie O. is asking the delegates if there are any objections. There are none.

Marios Nicolaides is elected by acclamation until the Congress in 2027.

13.3. Presidium members

Election of two Presidium members for a term until the Congress 2027.

Marc Beaufays has announced his intention to run for re-election.

Candidates are:

Name: Mr. Marc Beaufays, Belgium

Present position: EBF Presidium member

Member of the Belgian Bowling Federation

Nominated by: Belgian Bowling Federation

Name: Mrs. Lisa John, England

Present position: Member of British Tenpin Bowling Association

President of the BTBA (British Tenpin Bowling Association)

Nominated by: BTBA

Name: Mr. Kim T. Andersen

Present position: Member of the Danish Bowling Federation

Nominated by: Danish Bowling Federation

- *The President of the Danish Bowling federation, Torben V. Andersen, withdraws the nomination of Kim T. Andersson.*

The remaining two candidates, Marc Beaufays and Lisa John are elected by acclamation.

13.3. Auditors

The auditors, Florian Fister (GER) and Jan Edvardsen (NOR), as well as the substitute auditor, Argyris Logothetis (GRE) are confirmed for another two years by acclamation.

Ad 14 - Questions/Remarks from the floor

Items by Dieter Rechenberg (GER)

1. He requires from the members of the EBF presidium, which are also board members of IBF, that information, good or bad should be transmitted in due time to the member federations.
2. The World Games 2025 will be without Bowling, Ninepin and Parabolwing. The main reason is, that the International World Games Association (IWGA) has sent questions to IBF which remained unanswered. For the World Games 2029 must be applied still in 2023. Valgeir G. will take this to the IBF Meeting in Lausanne in November.
Marios N. added that an official statement was also that there is no Bowling Center ready for the World Games in Chendu, China.

Items by Jan Jaap van der Sar (NED)

1. Wants to have World Championships again in Europe, i.e., in Unterföhring (GER) to save the European Federations again some more money.

Marios N. explains that there is a contract with QAMF to run World Championships. Only if there are not big enough QAMF centers, there might be the opportunity to run it in a Brunswick Center. He will take it to the meeting on 21st November in Lausanne. There was already an exception as the center in Dubai was a Brunswick Center. The Center for the World Senior Championships in Cali, Columbia will be a Brunswick Center. Marios N. will find out about this, how the rule and contract can be bypassed. Valgeir G. sent a request to QAMF to find out which centers are ready in Europe to run World Championships, but he did not yet receive any answer.

Items by Olli Hossi (FIN)

He asks, what EBF will do, to have again more than four European countries attending the World Championships.

Addie O., Valgeir G. and Marios N. are replying collective that many federations did not attend because of the format (low number of games for far travelling) the late finalization of the forms including format and team-size, and the lack of money after the pandemic.

Marios N. will require that a legal case will be opened against Andy Oram (former IBF CEO).

Michael Granström (SWE) is asking for more respect for the athletes from IBF.

Christopher Sloan – (IRE) explains, that Ireland was not attending the WC due to the lack of leadership in IBF.

Jan Jaap van der Sar (NED) is asking for an Online Session to get some more input and background on the String technology, for those who might not be able to attend the iCoach Training in Finland early 2024.

Onder G. will bring in a presentation from the industries to get more updated information on the new technology. He is willing to share the slides from his PowerPoint presentation afterwards to interested persons which should inquire it directly from him.

Christopher Sloan (IRE) is asking, why the rule of ball checks is not followed in EBF championships, while we follow the IBF rules, as well as the USBC rules.

Marios N. replies, that EBF is following the USBC rules, but that EBF does not want to implement this rule. There is no way to handle it in European Championships.

Proposal by the EBF Presidium

New Article for inclusion in the awards chapter – EBF Honorary President

New article within the Awards chapter:

EBF Presidium can nominate EBF Presidents that have rendered outstanding and long services to EBF as EBF Honorary President.

EBF honorary Presidents can attend EBF Presidium meetings without a vote.

Accepted by the delegates by acclamation.

The new EBF Presidium proposes to the delegates, to vote for Addie Ophelders as the first honorary president of the EBF.

Accepted by the delegates with standing ovation.

A present from EBF to Addie O. is presented by Valgeir G.

Addie O. is very touched by the honor and is thanking all his friends in Bowling for the long time and successful teamwork. He also thanks his family and especially his wife, for their continuous support Without it would not have been possible for him to accomplish all the tasks for EBF. He thanks all the member federations and the presidium members for an outstanding organization.

A present from the German Bowling federation is presented to Addie O. by Dieter Rechenberg. He declares that Addie O. is already since approx. 20 years an honorary president in the German Bowling Federation.

A present from the Greek Bowling federation is presented to Addie O. by Argyris Logothetis. He is thanking for all the years of his support.

Ad 15 - Closing the meeting

Valgeir Gudbjartsson expressed the Presidium's thanks to the Congress delegates and wishes them safe travel back home and is hoping to see them all soon at next opportunity. He also thanks the Presidium members for their work done. The congress is closing with a reception including some refreshments to allow all some time to chat and say goodbye, especially to Addie O.

The Congress is formally closed at 14:10 h.

Minutes were prepared by:



Martina Jakobi, EBF Secretary General

Minutes approved by:



Valgeir Gudbjartsson, EBF President

Appendix I – (2 pages) List of participants

List of participants

Federation Delegates with vote and Delegates with voice only

	Federation	Delegate	Function/Participation	Vote	Proxy
1	Austria	Christoph Rohrmoser	Voice	X	
2	Belgium	Marc Beaufays	Voice	X	
3	Catalonia	Johnny Ricart	Voice	X	
4	Cyprus	Marios Nicolaidis	Voice	X	X
5	Denmark	Torben Vogelius Andersen	President	X	
6	England	Lisa John	President	X	
7	Finland	Olli Hossi	President	X	
	Finland	Sami Järvilä	Voice	-	
8	France	Patrick HUNTER	President	X	X
	France	Béatrice HUNTER	Voice	-	
9	Germany	Dieter Rechenberg	President	X	
	Germany	Michael Teschner	Voice	-	
	Germany	Uwe Oldenburg	Voice	-	
10	Greece	Argyris Logothetis	Vote	X	
11	Iceland	Jona Gudrun Kristinsdottir	President	X	X
	Iceland	Thorarinn Thorbjornsson	Voice only	-	
12	Italy	Cosimo Zecca	Vice President	X	
	Italy		Voice	-	
13	Ireland	Christopher Sloan	President	X	
14	Kosovo	Gani Pajaziti	President	X	X
	Kosovo	Mirsad Sejdiu	Voice	-	
15	Lithuania	Linas Sasnauskas	President	X	
16	Netherlands	Jan Jaap van der Sar	Voice	X	
17	Norway	Inge Sneberg	President	X	
	Norway	Kirsten Sofie Wille	Voice		
18	Slovenia	Robert Godnic	Voice	X	
19	Spain	Luz Adriana Leal	Voice	X	
20	Sweden	Jan Wiede	President	X	
	Sweden	Michael Granström	Voice	-	
	Sweden	Peter Hodor	Voice	-	
21	Switzerland	Xavier Ecoffey	President	X	
22	Turkey	Ümit Yıldırım	Voice	X	X
23	Wales	Alison Moore	Voice	X	
				23	5

Proxies:

Bulgaria to Iceland

Ukraine to France

Latvia to Cyprus

Slovakia to Turkey

Portugal to Kosovo

Presidium members:

Addie Ophelders, resigned ETBF President

Valgeir Gudbjartsson, Vice-President

Marios Nicolaides, Presidium member

Onder Gurkan, Presidium member

Marc Beaufays, Presidium member

Martina Jakobi, General Secretary

Auditors:

Florian Fister, Germany

Jan Edvardsen, Norway

Argyris Logothetis, substitute auditor